



the wyoming game and fish department

June 2016

CODY REGION newsletter

First turkey!

Upon successful completion of his hunter education class, eight-year-old Zane Lentsch immediately purchased a turkey license and the next morning, got up at 4 a.m. and set out with his dad for his first ever turkey hunt. Unfortunately, the late season hunter-wise toms kept their distance and Zane was not able to connect on a long-beard. Not one to give up, Zane and his dad set out to hunt the evening of the last day of the season. Zane was able to make a perfect 20 yard shot and became a successful turkey hunter!



Above: Zane Lentsch with his first turkey. The huge bird weighed nearly 22 pounds and sported a 9 1/2 inch beard.



Left: Greybull Game Warden Bill Robertson checks Zane's turkey license and hunter education certificate during a hunt.

Inside this month's issue:

In the water

Newton Lakes

Yellowstone cutthroat trout infusion

On the ground

Black bear check-in

Of interest

Community events

Kids Fishing Day



serving the Bighorn Basin

Featured water:

Newton Lakes



East and West Newton Lakes west of Cody.

With their close proximity to Cody and ample opportunity for a variety of fishing styles, Newton Lakes are great local fisheries that provide high quality angling opportunities.

Considered a trophy fishery, East Newton holds above average size brown, brook, rainbow, and splake trout. Because this fishery is managed for larger size fish, only artificial flies and lures are permitted -so be prepared to pull some tricks out of your tackle box. Common, scuds, beat patterns, caddis pupa and duns/spinners, zebra midges, leech patterns, and streamers ranging in size from 22 to sometimes 10 and even larger given the fly and style you are fishing will consistently produce line tugs. If you prefer a spinning rod, then various spoons and spinners in trout, two tone, and solid reflective patterns will work for you. Smaller juvenile imitations like Rapala floating, countdown, and shallow diving lures in trout and simple bait-fish colorations also work well.

Within casting distance of its trophy counterpart, West Newton is a family fishery that holds cutthroat trout and permits bait fishing. The same tackle described earlier for East Newton will work just as well here.

Fishing on both East and West Newton Lakes can be quite productive in the spring and the majority of the summer before water temperatures increase and deplete dissolved oxygen levels in the water column. Whether you like to fish from a small boat or if you simply like to fish from the bank, you will be able to do so easily at both lakes.

In the water:

Yellowstone cutthroat trout infusion

Last month, the public was invited to observe a Yellowstone cutthroat trout infusion that occurred in Cody.

To provide a genetically diverse population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout for sportfish stocking and native species restoration purposes, Wyoming Game and Fish Department fish culture staff crossed female Yellowstone cutthroat trout brood stock with milt (sperm) from wild males from the Yellowstone River below Yellowstone Lake. Forty-seven females were crossed with 51 males resulting in 5,600 fertilized eggs that were transported to an isolation facility at Tillett Springs Rearing Station near Lovell.



Members of the public watch Game and Fish staff mix milt from wild Yellowstone cutthroat trout with eggs from female Yellowstone cutthroat brood stock.

The actual infusion happened when females were brought in by truck from the Story Hatchery to be spawned with the milt collected the day before and transferred in coolers from the Yellowstone River. This is an effort to maintain the genetic diversity of the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout brood stock for the states of Wyoming and Montana. The collection is only made possible through a close partnership with the U.S. National Park Service and technical assistance by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collecting the males.

The Yellowstone cutthroat trout brood stock is housed at the Ten Sleep Fish Hatchery and typically spawns from the middle of February through late April under a constant water temperature provided by enclosed springs. Last year, two-year-old females were moved from Ten Sleep to be kept in a colder seasonal water source at the Story Hatchery so they sexually matured at the same time as the wild male cutthroats in the Yellowstone River.



Yellowstone cutthroat trout .

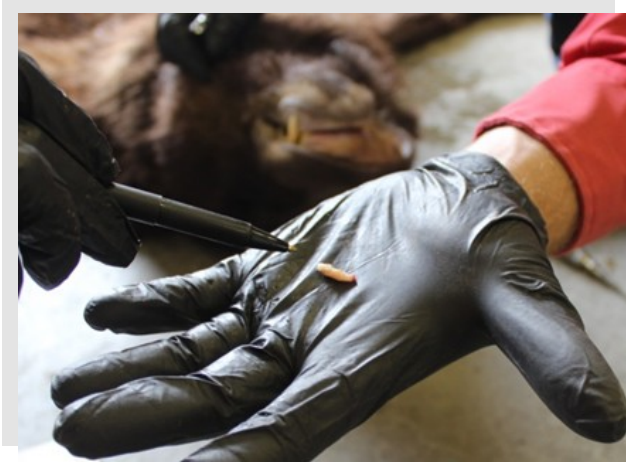


Eggs being taken from a female Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Yellowstone cutthroat trout are the only trout native to northwest Wyoming. Game and Fish's Yellowstone cutthroat trout brood stock consists of approximately 2,600 fish that provides on average 1.2 million eggs per year for rearing and stocking in Wyoming's waters primarily in the Cody, Lander and Sheridan Regions as well as assisting Montana with their brood stock.

On the ground

Valuable information collected through black bear check-in process



A vestigial premolar extracted from a hunter-harvested black bear.



Cody Large Carnivore Biologist Phil Quick extracts a tooth from a hunter-harvested black bear. Extracted teeth are aged through a laboratory process and the resulting data provides insight into harvest and allows for evaluation of management strategies.

The Large Carnivore Section of the Game and Fish is responsible for the data-based management of black bears and hunters are vital component of this process. Upon harvest of a black bear, hunters are required by law to present the pelt and skull to the district game warden or regional office within 72 hours. During the mandatory check-in process, managers collect valuable age and sex information on harvested black bears that allow for a better understanding of population dynamics and evaluation of population trends at the hunt area, bear management unit, and statewide levels. The data obtained from harvested animals along with public input, monitoring efforts, and hunter surveys allow managers to develop harvest strategies to ensure viable populations and harvest opportunity into the future.

On the ground

Upper Sunshine Reservoir receives new boat dock

A new boat dock was recently installed at Upper Sunshine Reservoir west of Meeteetse. The old floating dock was replaced with a new steel wedge-type structure that is approximately five feet wide and 40 feet long. The new dock at Upper Sunshine is similar to the dock at Lower Sunshine Reservoir.



A new boat dock recently installed at Upper Sunshine Reservoir west of Meeteetse.

Of interest

Getting involved in community events!

Last month, Game and Fish participated in a variety of community events including the Cody Outdoor Show, Spring into Yellowstone and health and safety fairs in Powell and Lovell.



Above: Biological Technician Juliann Terry, Greybull Game Warden Bill Robertson and Fisheries Supervisor Sam Hochhalter staffed an informational booth at the Cody Outdoor Show in May.



Above: Lovell Game Warden James Hobbs attended the Lovell Health and Safety fair to teach residents about boating safety and the importance of wearing a personal flotation device while on the water.



Right: As part of a Spring into Yellowstone experience, a group hikes up the Elk Fork on the Shoshone National Forest with Game and Fish large carnivore biologists to discuss the ecology and conservation of Yellowstone area grizzly bears. Spring into Yellowstone is a local event held annually in May that showcases the wildlife, landscapes, and ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Region while educating and engaging participants in discussions related to wildlife conservation and land stewardship.

Of interest

Kids fishing day!

Each year, various community organizations, individuals and agencies come together to host Kids Fishing Day events across the Bighorn Basin. These events provide a great opportunity for local area youth and their families to spend the day outdoors learning about the sport of fishing. This year, Cody Region Game and Fish personnel contributed to the Cody and Basin Kids Fishing Days by providing various educational activities for participants.



Above: Damage Technician Jeff Abplanalp teaches a Basin Kids Fishing Day participant how to tie an improved clinch knot.

Right: Regional AIS Specialist Greg Mayton talks to Kids Fishing Day participants about the Don't Let it Loose awareness program and aquatic invasive species.



Caden Reed of Greybull with his catch at Basin Kids Fishing Day on June 4.

